



The Church Caller

A monthly publication of the Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

March 2024

Sunday Worship 10:00 / Church School 10:00
Intentional Interim Pastor Joanne Myer
Director of Music Julie LaRocca
Director of Faith Formation Lee Carman

*Whoever you are and wherever you
are on your faith journey,
you are welcome here!*

Upcoming Events

Visit www.eccucc.org for details



**One Great Hour of
Sharing Collection**
March 3rd & 10th 2024
10:00am



Friendship Class
March 5, 2024
1:00 pm - Rm 201



**Easter Food Drive
Collection**
March 17, 2024
9:30 am - 12:00 pm -
Parking Lot



Girl Scout Sunday
March 17th, 2024
10:00 am



Egg Decorating
March 24, 2024
11:15 am - Social Room



Prayer Shawl
March 28, 2024
9:30 am - Social Room

2024 LENTEN CALENDAR OF EVENTS at Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

In person, livestream and recorded worship for viewing

SELF-PACED LENTEN DEVOTION PRACTICES FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

"The Poetry of Lent" and "Reflections on Giving"
Pick up materials in the social room

March 17 - COMMUNITY EASTER FOOD DRIVE
9:30 - 12:00 in the Church parking lot

MARCH 24 ~ PALM/PASSION SUNDAY ~ 10:00 AM
*Featuring special music from the Senior Choir, Children's Choir,
and the Junior Bells Choir*

MARCH 24 - FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Easter Egg Decorating - all ages, presented by BCE and G&N

MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 28 - MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY ~ 7:00 PM
Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service

MARCH 29-31 ~ EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

MARCH 31 ~ EASTER SUNDAY ~ 10:00 AM
*Featuring Trumpets, Cello and Violin with the Senior Choir and
the Senior bells Choir*

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter ~ 10:00 AM

VACATION

Pastor Joanne and her husband, Andy, will be on vacation in Jupiter, Florida to visit their daughter and son-in-law, Christina and John.

Time Away: Monday, February 26 to Monday, March 13
Coverage: Deacons Beth Tautkus, Jane Scordato, or any Deacon

LENT

Fast + Pray + Give



SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024

9:30 - 12:00 Noon

Bring to Church parking lot.

EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Helping Our Neighbors in this Season of Lent

With Much Appreciated Assistance from the Ellington Scouts!

To benefit: Ellington Food Bank, Crystal Lake Community Food Pantry, the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Bank and The Cornerstone Food Cupboard

Suggested Donation:

\$10 cash or grocery gift card towards Easter Dinner ham or turkey along with a grocery bag or box of:

- Canned ham, Spam, other canned meats, vegetables, soups
- Rice, noodle mixes, scalloped or mashed potatoes
- Muffin mix, corn bread, or roll mix
- Cake or brownie mixes



Easter Prayer Vigil

12:00 noon Good Friday
through 6:00 am Easter

To sign up, visit www.eccucc.org
or call the office

“Could you not stay awake with me for even one hour?”

Keep alert and pray...”

The Diaconate is again coordinating the Easter Prayer Vigil. During Lent, we are readying ourselves for Jesus’ resurrection on Easter morning. This season of Lent is a time for us to prepare through prayer and deep inner reflection. What better way for us to go within, in the quiet, than through our Prayer Vigil? If you have not had the experience of sitting in the church, alone, praying, we can promise you that time is at the very least peaceful and contemplative and for many is transformational.

It begins at 12:00 noon on Good Friday and goes till 6:00 am Easter morning. This allows for continuous prayer in our Sanctuary, with each person praying for one hour. Bible and reading material will be provided.

We will again have onsite professional security provided by Orion Protective Services from South Windsor. They will be stationed at the back door on Friday and Saturday late evenings through early morning.

We have two time slots for each hour during the vigil. Please attempt to fill an empty first slot before signing up for a second slot. If you sign up in the second slot, you will be stationed in the Bride's Room. The second slot is intended for overflow once all the first slots are filled, or if a parent would like their child to attend with them.



**2024 ORDER FORM
EASTER TULIPS**

Please complete the **Order Form** below and return it to the **Church Office** by **Friday, March 15th 2024**.

Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to Ellington Congregational Church. Thank you for your order!

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I/we wish to order _____ Tulip(s) plant at \$12.50 each

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In honor/celebration of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ Blank Order To adorn the sanctuary

Total due: _____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Thank you for your order!

Easter Blessings

Due to allergies to lilies and hyacinths, tulips will only be available.

You may also order and pay online at www.eccucc.org

Materials for these Lenten practices can be found in the Social Room, or speak with Lee Carman to receive the materials online.

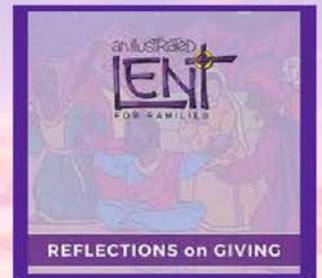
The Board of Christian Education is offering this Lenten devotional practice for individuals



The SALT project "The Poetry of Lent" using the poetry of Mary Oliver

The Board of Christian Education is offering this devotional practice for the Lenten season for families

"Reflections on Giving" by Illustrated Ministry for families



**EGG DECORATING ACTIVITY
PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

During Fellowship Hour in Social Room
Presented by Growth & Nurture and Board of Christian Education



Eggs and materials will be provided.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join us March 28th in the social room for our monthly meeting where we knit and crochet amazing shawls to bring comfort and warmth to anyone who is in need. The maker begins with a prayer for the recipient as she lovingly weaves her yarn in a pattern. Refreshments are provided as well as warm conversation.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship Hour generally follows the worship service.

Please join us after the service, downstairs in the Social Room.

It is a favorite Sunday ritual and gives visitors, friends and members of the congregation a chance to socialize over delicious foods, a nice cuppa, and some fun activities.

Please remember to wear your name tags!

March Fellowship Hour themes:

Mar 3rd - National Soup and Cold Cuts Day

Mar 10th - St. Patrick's Day delights

Mar 17th - Girl Scouts

Mar 24th - Celebrating Eggs

Mar 31st - Easter - No Fellowship Hour

The Fellowship Hour Ministry offers a way for a broad number of people to serve, without needing to attend formal committee meetings. There is also a lot of flexibility in the scheduling. Please prayerfully consider if you could assist with this ministry at least a few times during the year. Tasks are simple - baking, setup, and cleanup.

It is a loving ministry and an excellent opportunity to get to know other members of the congregation on Sunday mornings. Join Cassie Miller and her team as they continue to create fun themes each Sunday.

The Growth and Nurture Committee encourages you to wear your name tag at worship service and any other ECC gatherings. This small act goes a long way to fostering relationships and helps newcomers feel welcomed.

Missing a name tag? Please fill out the form in the narthex and leave it in the collection plate or contact Caroline in the office - officeadmin@eccucc.org.



New Members

On Sunday, April 14th, there will be an opportunity during the worship service when we will receive and welcome people as new members of the Ellington Congregational Church community. If you are interested in becoming a new member, please email Pastor Joanne: pastor@eccucc.org or call Caroline, Office Administrator, at the church office, 860.871.6606 by March 27th.

Pastor Joanne or Caroline will make sure that you receive a New Member folder as soon as possible after you have made your decision to become a member. You will be asked to read all the information contained in the packet and then email Pastor Joanne to set up a time in order to discuss that information. (Discussing the information can be done with Pastor Joanne by phone or Zoom at your convenience.)

On April 7th, there will be a meeting held in Room 201 at 11:30 am. for prospective members to meet with representatives from ECC boards, committees, and groups to understand their purpose.

It is exciting that we already have four people who have met with Pastor Joanne and will join ECC as members on April 14th.

T.E.L.O.S. earned \$465 toward their
2024 Mission Trip!



We had 9 chili entries
and 13 brownie entries!



Chili: People's Choice - Becky H.

1st - Justin B. 2nd - Jeff M. 3rd - Chris G.

Brownies: People's Choice - Mangold family

1st - Jen T. 2nd - Emily M. 3rd - Rolland family

Thank you to our cooks, bakers, tasters
and judges!

2024 T.E.L.O.S. Mission Trip



In July 2024, Telosians will travel to Lumberton, NC

We will be staying at a renovated warehouse partnering with Baptist on Mission. We will sleep in rooms with twin mattresses on bunk beds. Meals will be in the dining hall on campus. There are outdoor recreation areas for games as well as indoor game space to relax after our workdays.

We will do some form of a hands-on project like painting, landscaping, and/or building for a homeowner or a ministry. This could include but is not limited to ramps, decks, painting, landscaping, drywall, framing, sheds, and more.

We will have Chapel every night. This will include announcements, games, mission site stories, worship, and a message all led by college-aged TEAMeffort staff.



TELOS MARCH MADNESS

For every \$5 donated to T.E.L.O.S. during the month of March, you will be given a chance to win 1 of 3 prizes!

Choose which prize you'd like the

chance to win:

Tea Lovers Basket

Wine Basket or

Cuisinart Belgian Waffle Maker &
Cookbook



\$500 scholarship
awarded by BCE

Scholarship applications now available!

Applicants must be an active Telosian in their senior year of high school and have been active in T.E.L.O.S. for an additional year during their high school career

Email Lee at christianed@eccucc.org for an application



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Lent, 2024

What a wonderful way to do God's ministry here on earth; we can send God's message of love and hope to people around the world who are in crisis.

The theme for 2024 is **Share the Light** and is based on Matthew 5:14-15: "*You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.*"

Brochures and envelopes will be placed in the pew racks with the collection taking place on March 3rd and 10th. We ask that you place your OGHS envelopes in the collection plate. You can also send a check to the church office marked for OGHS or contribute online at our website.

Nearly sixty percent of UCC churches participate annually. Let's have Ellington Congregational Church be one of them. Thanks be to God.

Shopping Cart Ministry March Most Needed Items

Crystal Lake Pantry is requesting:

- Corned Beef Hash
- Scalloped/Au gratin Potatoes
- Mayo
- Jarred Pasta Sauce
- Canned Pears



Cornerstone is requesting:

- Peanut butter
- Canned tuna
- Canned pasta
- Ramen noodles
- Rice-A-Roni or Knorr rice side dishes
- Canned fruit
- Pasta sauce in plastic jars or cans
- Pouches of instant potatoes

Thank you, Irene Mosher, for helping out in many ways and many times at the last minute!

girl scouts 

We will be celebrating
Girl Scout Sunday
March 17

Join us as we recognize all the good work of Girl Scouts, past and present.

If you find yourselves or loved ones hospitalized, either planned or unplanned, please reach out to Pastor Joanne, Laurie Hazleton or the Office.

You can never have too many positive thoughts and prayers.

**Saturday,
April 27th
9-12**

**ECC BOARD OF MISSIONS
SPONSORED DAY OF SERVICE**

REBUILDING TOGETHER: MANCHESTER

**ASSIST THOSE IN NEED OF
GENERAL HOME REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT CAROLINE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR SEE TAMMIE MANGOLD IN THE SOCIAL ROOM
AFTER SERVICE

ALL AGES WELCOME!



www.rebuildingmanchester.org

Are you looking for a hands-on way to help shine Jesus' light in the world? The Board of Missions is forming a team to participate in Manchester's Rebuilding Together to help people in need, people with disabilities, and older neighbors, making it possible for them to continue to live in warmth, safety, and independence.

The team will meet on site on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00-12:00. We will find out what our assignment is when we arrive, but possible jobs include painting, yard work, trash removal, and home safety modifications.

No experience is necessary, and all ages are welcome. Please consider giving the gift of time and energy to help our neighboring community.

For more information, or to sign up to join, please contact Caroline in the church office or Tammie Mangold in the social room after service.

2024 Spring Programs at Silver Lake

LEARN
MORE



<p>Women's Yoga Weekend May 3-5 Women 18+</p>	<p>Spring Action Weekend April 26-28 Grades 6-12, adults</p>
<p>Spring Camp Weekend May 3-5 Grades 3-7</p>	<p>Open House Sunday, May 19 1-5 p.m.</p>
<p>Family Camp Weekend May 25-27 All ages</p>	

**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

www.SilverLakeCT.org/SummerCamp

Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship of the Ellington Congregational Church is open to all members and friends of the church. We encourage you to participate in our organization.

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Dear Women of ECC,

We hope that you are having a meaningful, spiritual Lent season.

We are planning additional programs and hopefully events/trips for 2024. Watch for details in the coming months. Our next General Women's Fellowship meeting and program will be in April. We have a conservation officer from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection as a guest speaker. Details/date will be forthcoming. This program will be open to the whole church.

We continue the process of discernment for a possible change from Women's Fellowship to Fellowship for all adults. All of Women's Fellowship is invited to participate in the decision as we move through discussion to an eventual vote in future months.

The applications for the two \$500 scholarships offered each year by Women's Fellowship for higher education are due in the church office by May 1, 2024. Please plan accordingly. Late applications will not be accepted. There is a separate article in the Caller explaining how to apply.

Happy Easter! (which will be on the very last day of March)

Blessings, Penny Gates and Sharon McLaughlin, Co-Presidents



If you would like information about the following ministries,
please call the church office 860-871-6606

Friendship Class
March 5, 2024
1:00 pm - Rm 201



Prayer Shawl
March 28, 2024
9:30 am - Social Room



Ellington Congregational Church
Women's Fellowship
Scholarship Application

The ECC Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce two \$500.00 scholarships for 2024 are available to any member of the Ellington Congregational Church who is beginning or continuing their education at an accredited institution. This would include trade or technical institutions also. The scholarships are funded by the Women's Fellowship.

The application should be typed in resume format and include the following:

- Name
- Address
- Email address, if available
- Phone number
- Activities
 - School
 - Within the church
 - Within the community
 - Employment history, if any
- An essay describing how being a member of Ellington Congregation Church has impacted your life and how you have impacted the church and your community
- A copy of proof of acceptance to an accredited institution or a copy of a current college transcript
- A letter of reference from a member of the Ellington Congregational Church

Completed applications should be addressed to the Women's Fellowship Scholarship Committee and mailed to PO Box 216 and to arrive on or before May 1 or submitted electronically to officeadmin@eccucc.org

Application deadline is **May 1, 2024**
Late applications will not be accepted.

Women's Fellowship Scholarship Committee
(revised 02/2024)

THE CHURCH CALLER
Ellington Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 216
Ellington, CT 06029-0216

ECC Contact Information

860-871-6606 www.eccucc.org

Church Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Office email: OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org

officeadmin@eccucc.org

Caroline Takach, Office
Administrator

Location/Shipping Address

72 Main Street

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 216,
Ellington, CT 06029-0216

Fax 860-871-5932

**WIFI for Sanctuary and
Social Room:** ECCwifil
pass: 2019churchECC!

**The 24/7 church answering
machine provides
instructions for urgent call
service .**

Pastoral Emergencies,
concerns or prayer requests,
call Pastor Joanne at
860-872-9222.

pastor@eccucc.org
Joanne Myer, Intentional
Interim Minister

christianed@eccucc.org
Lee Carman, Youth &
Children Faith Formation
Director

musicdirector@eccucc.org
Juliane 'Julie' LaRocca,
Director of Music

outreach@eccucc.org
Jill McAllister, Outreach &
Media Coordinator/ Website